

April 12, 2004

**Project 184 Weekly Update**  
**Website: [www.project184.org](http://www.project184.org)**

Our New Toll Free Project 184 information number is now working. **The new number is 1-(866)-776-5184 or 1-(866)-project184.**

Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities  
For Project 184  
*Week Ending April 9, 2004*

**Lake Aloha Dam Maintenance and Telemetry Station Project**

District staff and EN2 Resources prepared draft AIS information for District Board April 19 meeting to consider adopting Lake Aloha CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and approve the project. EN2 Resources assisted the District with addressing additional USFS comments on the Project Description and Biological Evaluation, and preparing the final Initial Study, MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for transmittal to permitting agencies following Board CEQA approvals. District and EN2 Resources also discussed and planned on preparing and submitting USFS Special Use Permit and other agency permit applications following the April 19 Board meeting.

**Mill to Bull Tunnel/Spillway 20**

EN2 Resources completed addressing District and Owen Engineering comments on Administrative Draft Initial Study and Proposed MND on Spillway 20 Reconstruction Project. The revised documents were prepared for transmittal on April 12 for District approval to file with the State Clearinghouse and release for a 30-day public and agency review period. EN2 Resources coordinated with Owen Engineering regarding existing Mill to Bull Tunnel permit and other agency (e.g., USFS) requirements for the selected contractor, including a fire plan, spill prevention and containment plan, best management practices under the existing SWPPP, and blasting plan.

**Relicensing Activities**

The District and Forest Service participated in a March 31 meeting to discuss District/USFS schedules and review processes for CIP engineering and construction actions for 2004 and 2005. District management, Project Engineers and consultants, and Forest Service management and representatives from the Placerville, Pacific, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit districts participated in the meeting, which included a project-by-project review and discussion of contacts and procedures for planning and Forest Service review of the projects.

### **Camp 2 Short-Cut Access Road**

The USFS indicated that it has decided not to permit the District to rehabilitate and use the Camp 2 Short-Cut Road on a seasonal basis as the District had requested, and that the road will be permanently closed. The District will continue planning and consulting with the USFS on required actions for stabilizing a surface slide and addressing vandalism of a National Register of Historic Places-eligible rock wall on the primary Camp 2 access road.

### **Project 184 Relicensing Support**

The District and USFS have rescheduled a coordination meeting from March 15 to March 31 to discuss Relicensing Settlement Agreement, District Capital Improvement Program, and Mill to Bull Tunnel Project completion activities and priorities.

### **SPI Plum Creek Staging Area SWPPP Maintenance**

District Camp 5 staff replaced and improving SWPPP BMPs at the Plum Creek staging area based on poor performance of the existing SWPPP BMPs during this past winter. The improvements to the BMPs include installing larger diameter straw wattles, reorienting the layout of the wattles, and re-grading and placement of 6-12 inch rock in the main drainage area to reduce erosion and better contain sediment.

### **Mill Creek Diversion Modification Project (Bore Hole)**

District staff met on March 10 to discuss the potential methods, feasibility and environmental considerations of drilling the bore hole from Mill Creek downward to the Mill to Bull Tunnel, versus the currently proposed drilling of the bore hole from the Mill to Bull Tunnel upward to Mill Creek. Reconsideration of the construction methods is partly in response to comments from R. Kanz of the SWRCB on the District's CEQA Initial Study that the District should reconsider the Mill Creek downward drilling method. District is evaluating its options.

### **2004 Project 184 Planned CIP Projects:**

- Hazel Creek Tunnel
- Lake Aloha Telemetry/Dam Repairs
- Spillway 20
- Camp 2 Bridge and Slide
- Silver Lake Spillway Automation
- Echo Lake Outlet Valve Automation/Spillway Valve
- Slide Repairs Flume 6&7,
- Special Use Permit/ Road Work
- New Canal SCADA Alarms
- Install Weather Station
- Replace Flume 52
- Rebuild Spillway Chutes
- Engineering For Flumes 31, 49-50 Concrete Flume
- Engineering Echo Conduit and Tunnel Repairs
- Replacement of Deer Fencing Beat one

➤ Fence Camp 5

**Ecological Resources Committee meeting planned for April 27th, 2004 Meeting**

The next ERC meeting is scheduled for April 27, at 0900. Final meeting minutes have been circulated to all parties.

**\*Akin Powerhouse Water Quality Monitoring**

The final water quality monitoring events were performed on December 17 and 19 upstream and downstream of the Akin Powerhouse. The monitoring began in mid-October and was performed an average of once per week to assess potential changes in water quality during a wide range of start-up and testing procedures for the powerhouse. Results indicate that Akin Powerhouse operations had negligible effects on South Fork American River water quality conditions during the monitoring periods.

SWPPP measures are in place and inspections are being performed as required.

**\*Powerhouse Update:**

EID is operating the powerhouse between 18 to 20mw. Currently we are operating both units 24 hours a day, while we perform further efficiency testing.

**\*Canal**

The flows in the canal are being regulated by A-12 requirements for minimum fish flows. Fish life this month per the settlement agreement is 110cfs at A-12, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Current flows in canal are ranging between 135-145 cfs. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal to be filled to its capacity. SCADA is being manned 24 hours a day to insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal. Further automation of the Diversion Structure is planned to control A-12 (Fish Release's) and A-11 (canal flows).

EID is continually working on its automation to control the Diversion Structure at the intake to regulate the float controller to allow EID to satisfy the A-12 minimum flow requirements and place balance of water in the canal at A-11. This will allow EID to operate with much tighter flows, maximizing generation production. Mead & Hunt continues to provide engineering support on the remaining tasks to be completed at intake.

It was determined by Carlton Engineering that additional vertical drilling would need to be done on the Canal Bench to measure water levels with in the berm on slide 6 & 7. This will be accomplished using a small hand held unit. The additional drilling was completed February 10 along with SWPPP.

EID is in the preliminary stages of beginning work on the Hazel Creek Tunnel. Access road and site clearing is scheduled to begin February 9, 2004, with burning of brush scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2004. This project is expected to be in progress between February 9 though October 31, 2004, at which time EID expects to be completed.

**EID has received all its project signs and will be installing these new EID signs throughout our Project 184. The lakes will receive new signage this spring when the snow melts. Ice warning signs have been posted at Lakes to warn fisherman of changing lake levels.**

**Tributary flows:**

Esmeralda and Ogilby are not being utilized in canal, as of this report; however if bypass flows are above minimums EID will utilize the water as needed.

**Echo Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

**Caples Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized. ICE warning sign have been posted at lakes, warning fisherman of changing lake levels. EID plans to draw Caples Lake down as required to prevent early spill. Planned releases for Caples creek this week are 18cfs due to increased runoff.

**Silver Lake**

.The Radial Gates were close on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> and the Lake is starting to fill.

**Lake Aloha**

Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern.

A visit to the Lake was made on Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> at that time the Lake elevation was . Staff 13.7ft. =1195 af.

A trip was made to Pyramid Creek (A-40) on January 29, Staff Reading 1.72=12.9cfs.

A trip was made to Echo Lake the week of January 19<sup>th</sup> but readings could not be taken due to the amount of snow on the staff. Everything appears to be normal.

**DWR Bulletin 120 states that it's a Dry Year not Below Normal.**

**Listed below are the Projects readings for April 12, 2004  
Taken from SCADA:**

	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Ac. Ft.</b>	<b>Draft</b>
Echo Lake	0	0	0
Echo Conduit	0	0	0
Echo Creek	1.96		40cfs.
Caples Lake	41.82	11201	12.1 cfs.
Silver Lake	14.79	4,912	7.5cfs.
Pyramid Creek	2.73		59.1cfs.

There is 145.0cfs. @ A-11 being released into the canal at Intake and 782cfs. flowing in the South Fork of the American River at Intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage  $3796.02 = 272$  AF

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is  $.77 = 14$ cfs.

Mark Korkowski  
Co-Head Hydro Operations  
530-647-5152

Steve Lindstrom  
Water System Supervisor  
530-647-5169